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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

9877 '99 JUN -3 AIO:17

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production,  
Processing, and Handling of Food

Dear FDA,

I very strongly support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods: "Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled, on the principal display panel, with a written statement indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a material fact of food processing. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. The material fact of processing remains. Even if some consumers become familiar with the radura, new consumers, such as young people and immigrants, will not be. The symbol should be clearly understandable at the point of purchase for everyone. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated.

I urge you to extend the comment period past its current end date of May 18 to allow more concerned citizens the time to write in about this issue. Also, please place the comments received on the Internet so that the public can be informed about who is participating in this comment process.

Most sincerely,

*Terri Middleton*

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98P-1194

C140

We also need labeling of genetically-engineered food. Consumers have the right to know what they're feeding their kids. And the right to know what practices they are supporting with their food dollars. It isn't right to risk the health of children in the name of the almighty dollar.

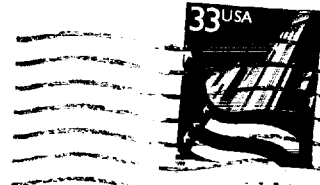
CROSS FILE SHEET

FILE NO: 98P-1194/c40

SEE FILE NO: 98N-1038/c2451



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